

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 with the following amended paragraph:

Conventionally, disease or injury of a patient has been sometimes diagnosed by reading an X-ray film on which a radiation image of the patient is recorded. Recently, ~~there~~ a system has been developed ~~a system~~ in which a radiation image of a patient is ~~onee~~ stored on a stimuable phosphor sheet (or a radiation image conversion panel) by exposing the stimuable phosphor sheet to radiation through the object (patient) to have the stimuable phosphor sheet store radiation energy, and stimulated emission which is emitted from each part of the stimuable phosphor sheet upon exposure to stimulating light in proportion to the radiation energy stored thereon is digitally read, thereby obtaining a digital image signal representing the radiation image stored on the stimuable phosphor sheet, and the digital image signal is reproduced as a visible image on a recording medium such as a photographic film or on an image display system such as those using a CRT. (A radiation image recording and read-out apparatus: computed radiography, see, for instance, Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication Nos. 55(1975)-12429, 56(1976)-11395 and 56 (1976) -11397).

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

In accordance with such a radiation image recording and read-out apparatus, by carrying out image processing on the digital image signal in various ways, the tone properties and the frequency properties of the output visible image can be improved so that the visible image

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 09/987,402

becomes more suitable for reading and ~~diagnose~~ diagnosis through the visible image can be made more correctly.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

Further, ~~there~~ a system has been developed in which the digital image signal is analyzed by a computer to automatically detect an abnormal shadow representing a growth, a micro calcification or the like, whereby a certain detecting level can be ensured irrespective of the skillfulness of the reader. (Prospective abnormal shadow detecting system: see, for instance, Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication Nos. 8(1996)-294479 and 8(1996)-287230).